

Woman's Department.

NOVEL BALL GOWNS.

PICTURESQUE FLORAL COSTUMES
WORN BY YOUNG GIRLS.

An Innovation That Pleaseed New York Society—The New Summer Fabrics Described—Dainty French Ginghams—How the Summer Dresses Will Be Made.

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N THE occasion of a recent dinner and ball the three young daughters of the house and three of their girl friends retired from the ballroom for a few minutes and returned in short dresses made of tulip woven with gold braid in basket fashion sewn upon them. The corsages were masses of flowers, and each had a handle made of basket work fastened so as to frame the pretty face like the handle of a basket. One had blue of the valley only another violet, one rose, and so on through all the spring blossoms, and they went through with a pretty little dance that was devised for them by their dancing teacher.

Then they came out again, and when they returned they were the regulation dainty dresses of flimsy white, floating pink, ethereal blue, or the tender green of springtime, and went on with their dancing as if nothing unusual had happened, but the innovation was unexpected and gave the guests something to talk about.

At the geraniums this season the favors have been very odd and curious rather than costly, and the wise hostess tries to think of something that nobly has ever had before. One of the wealthiest ladies in the city had whole families of those snifted baby cats that are sold for ten cents apiece for favors, and each had a long ribbon tied around its neck so it could be carried, and the object was for each one to see how many he or she could collect. One lady had three tiny birds hanging from her necklace.

As an offset the dinner favors consisted of large orchids of flaggery silver, each holding the menu rolled up and stood in the center of a bunch of violets, which had their stems in the lip of the orchid.

The new summer fabrics are all beautiful, and now being made up as rapidly as possible, and some of them are perfectly elegant and quite as drowsy as silks. The care exercised in making up the summer gowns, though they are of inexpensive material, is as great as if it were cloth of gold. Every one fits as though mold-ed, and every stitch is as fine and neat as fingers can sew them, and, by the way, they are nearly all made by hand. It is easy to test the hand or machine work—and of course the one that costs the most labor is the best.

There is a very nobly stuff called Priscilla homespun. It is very ugly, but stylish, and is being largely worn for run about frocks, and there is a new one, cheviot, which makes up into a handsome dress, and for every day in early spring there is cashmere, with serge and satin stripes; fancy pinehead check; camel's hair, with fancy patterns and satin stripes, all several effects of wool weave.

There are for handsomer gowns, for calling, carriage, reception and other occasions which require more elaborate toilet pattern, dresses of rich broadcloth, and this now comes already shrunken, and there are lighter ladies' cloths, some of them having stripes of camel's hair on the surface. This is sometimes seen in gray, with soft creamy white lines over it, and it makes lovely dresses.

But the lace French ginghams and the fine plaid ginghams, these latter plaid and stripe goods of the same class, the novelty stripe, the embroidered stripe, the Roman stripe, the broche pattern, the Byzantine stripe, zephyrs, the grena-

tine, and the like.

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Among the gingham novelties I find in referring to my notes that there are also raised hair line stripes and Scotch crinkle gingham, as well as patterns where there is a flounce or neck ruffle and such all embroidered in contrasting color, and I remember one exquisite French crepe gingham in shell pink, with a delicate embroidery in old rose and brown.

JOHN N. DELHAGEN,

Harnesss:

Making

Repairing.

Large Stock of Trunks and

Satchels.

10 BROADSTREET.

The sleeves were of this latter. This gown was for a young married lady who could pile dollars up to the moon if she wished.

Another new gingham was in picture head checks of salmon and maize, and in the front was an embroidery of brown and black. The dress was waistless in the back and fell loosely from the bust line. There was a short jacket, scarce more than a yard of gray chambrey, embroidered and bordered with narrow white braid, and in each vandyke was a flat linen button. The sleeves were quite as elaborate as if the dress was of silk that cost three dollars a yard instead of gingham at forty cents, which is the price of the finest qualities.

Among some of the new summer gowns there are several designs in turkey reds, and these will have flat lace flourishes, either black or cream.

HENRIETTE BOUQUET.

New York.

A SMART WOMAN.

She Can Teach School, Talk Politics and Lecture on Twenty Topics.

Kearney, Neb., boasts of a genius in the person of Miss Mary A. Ripley, who can talk on more topics than any other woman in the United States. And she can talk interestingly on every one of them too. She is, to use the phrase of a down east woman who heard her lecture, "an awful smart woman."

Miss Ripley was for many years a teacher in the Buffalo high school. Her summers are spent at Kearney. As soon as the lecture season begins she packs her satchel and starts out to tour all over the country—from Portland, Or., to Montreal, Me., and from St. Augustine to Montreal.

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